



Town of Westford Massachusetts

Town Manager's Newsletter

March 2022



Jodi Ross,
Town
Manager

jross@westfordma.gov
www.westfordma.gov/tm

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**Restorative Westford
Community Circle**
Thursday, March 24
Online Event 7:00 PM
(See page 3)

**70 Boston Road Forum
League of Women Voters**
Thursday, March 24
7:00 PM (see page 4)

Annual Town Meeting
June 11, 2022
(June 12 rain date)
**Westford Academy
Field**



Watch
westford CAT
community access television
www.westfordcat.org

Dear Westford residents,

On February 17th the Board of Health voted to lift the town-wide indoor mask mandate. The Westford Public Schools also voted to lift the indoor mask mandate, with an effective date of March 4th. To find more information on the Westford Board of Health, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Early Education and Care, and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's recommendations regarding masks, you may visit the following link: [Westford Board of Health February 18, 2022 Press Release](#).

The Cameron Senior Center recently received a donation of COVID-19 test kits from AgeSpan (formerly known as Elder Services of Merrimack Valley). These test kits are being distributed on a first-come-first-serve basis to Westford residents, with a maximum of two kits per household. If you are interested in receiving available test kits, please visit the front desk at the Cameron Senior Center during normal business hours. Alternatively, if you require delivery assistance, please call our Outreach Coordinator, Annette Cerullo, at (978) 399-2326.

At the Select Board meeting on February 22nd, the board considered forming a "Monuments and Memorials Committee" to formalize a preliminary review group for all newly proposed monument requests and to make final recommendations to the Select Board for consideration. On March 8th, the Select Board reviewed and approved the formal charge for the new committee and voted on the makeup of the committee's membership. Committee membership shall include one member of the Historical Commission and six residents-at-large seats. The committee's charge approved by the Select Board is as follows:

"The Monuments and Memorial Committee will develop policies and procedures to be used to evaluate requests for the construction or erection of public monuments or memorials on Town-owned property. Such policies and procedures will be presented to the Select Board for its approval. The Committee will be responsible for reviewing any requests for the construction or erection of new public monuments or memorials on Town-owned property for persons or events and recommend possible design and locations for such monuments or memorials. The Committee shall report its recommendations to the Select Board and final approval of all monuments and memorials rests with the Select Board".

Residents who are interested in volunteering to become a member on this new committee may fill out a Citizen Activity Form at the following link: [Citizen Activity Form](#) by Wednesday, April 6, 2022. The Select Board will review all received Citizen Activity Forms at their meeting on Tuesday, April 12, 2022.

Also, at the February 22nd Select Board meeting, Town Moderator Angela Harkness sought support from the Select Board to explore the potential use of electronic voting tabulators at future Town Meetings. She presented a plan to initiate a public education process, which included adding an Article on the upcoming Annual Town Meeting Warrant to see if Westford residents support this change. If Town Meeting approves this initiative, she intends to work towards implementing the use of the electronic voting tabulators at the next Special Town Meeting in October 2022. The Select Board supported her request unanimously.

(Continued on next page)

WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV

The Finance Committee, meeting jointly with the Select Board, have already hosted two of their five scheduled budget hearings, reviewing the capital and revenue budgets on March 3rd and the Westford Public Schools budget on March 10th. Recordings of the meetings may be viewed online. All budget related material may be accessed on our website at the following link: [Budget Documents](#). The Finance Committee will be hosting three additional budget hearings, with the public safety departments on March 24th, public works and culture and recreation departments on March 31st, and concluding with the second review of the Westford Public Schools budget, followed by general government, health and human services, debt service, and risk management on April 7th. All budget hearing are held virtually at 7:00 PM. Westford residents are encouraged to attend the budget hearings and may register for the meetings by using the link on the agenda.

During the summer of 2021, Westford received our first payment of \$3,708,985 through the Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). After advertising the available funding and soliciting requests and projects, the Select Board began reviewing the requests in a phased approach. The first phase was to review projects that were either Covid-19 related or those which required immediate funding. At their February 8th meeting, the Select Board finished reviewing most of these requests and allocated a total of \$2,353,236 to support thirty different projects. A complete list of the approved funding may be found on our website at the following link: [ARPA Summary of Funding Allocated](#). The Select Board will consider non-Covid-19 related requests in the near future. In addition to the \$1,355,749 remaining from the initial APRA appropriation, we will receive our second and final payment of \$3,708,985 this summer, resulting in an available balance of \$5,064,734.

Please remember the grace period for 2022 dog license registrations ends on March 31st. You may register in person by visiting the Town Clerk's Office during normal business hours, or online at the following link: [2022 Dog Licensing](#). Registrations submitted after March will incur a \$25 late fee. If you have any questions regarding dog licensing, you may contact the Town Clerk's office by calling (978) 692-5515 or by email at townclerk@westfordma.gov.

The Select Board and I recently recognized Assistant Town Manager Eric Heideman for receiving the Credentialed Manager designation from the International City/Council Management Association (ICMA). He is one of approximately 1,300 Nation-wide local government management professionals currently credentialed through the ICMA Voluntary Credentialing Program.

Please join me in congratulating Rae Dick, who was promoted to Health Director in our Health Department, Michelle Collette, who was promoted to Recreation Director, and Jonathan Regis, who was promoted to Parks Operations Manager. Please join me in congratulating these three on their well-deserved promotions!

Select Board Member Hazleton commended the Highway Department for keeping our streets clear and safe during the challenging storms we have had this winter.

The Select Board also recently congratulated the Westford Academy Girl's Swim Team for defending the Dual County League Championship title for the ninth straight year.

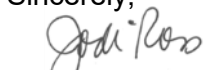
There are several openings on our local boards and committees, including: 35 Town Farm Road Task Force, Access to Town Meeting Committee, Affordable Housing Trust, Agricultural Commission, Board of Cemetery Commissioners, Commission on Disability, Communications Advisory Committee, Council on Aging, Cultural Council, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, Dog Park Task Force, Economic Development Committee, Election Officer, Healthy Westford Committee, Monuments and Memorials Committee, Parks, Grounds and Recreation Commission, Pedestrian Safety Committee, Permanent Town Building Committee, Recycling Commission, Senior Low Income Disabled Tax Relief Committee, Westford Scholarship and Grant Committee, and Zoning Board of Appeals.

I urge you to peruse our website for information about the work of these committees; and if you have interest, please complete and submit a Citizen's Activity form at this link: [Citizen Activity Form](#).

Would you like more detailed information on the Select Board's meetings? Click the following links to access: [Select Board Documents](#) & [Select Board Meeting Videos](#).

Happy Saint Patrick's Day everyone!

Sincerely,



Jodi Ross
Town Manager

Restorative Westford: *Community Circle*



On **Thursday, March 24th, at 7pm**, members of the Westford community are invited to come and share their thoughts and listen to fellow community members, as we have a safe, honest conversation about racism in our community.

Each attendee will be assigned to a small “circle” conversation, where a facilitator will guide the participants in a restorative conversation. For more information about restorative practices, as well as Westford Public Schools’ response to recent incidents of racism, [please watch the video from this webinar from March 3rd](#). Participants in this week’s community circles are encouraged to watch the video before attending on Thursday.

To be a part of this important conversation, please reserve your spot at <https://tinyurl.com/WestfordCircles>. If you’re interested, but unable to attend this Thursday, please email Chris Sanders, chair of the Westford School Committee, at csanders@westfordk12.us to express interest in a future community circle.

League of Women Voters

70 Boston Road Forum

presented by the Westford League of Women Voters

Coldwell Banker has moved its real estate offices out of the red farmhouse and barn at 70 Boston Road and is selling the property. Because of the building's long history, high visibility, and location at what is known as the "Gateway to Westford," and because the property is very close to the former Drew Orchard parcel, there is a great deal of interest, concern, and rumors among town residents about the future of the buildings and land.



To help the public understand how the property's zoning and legal status would affect a new owner's use of the buildings and land, the League of Women Voters of Westford is sponsoring a virtual forum on Thursday, March 24, at 7:00 pm, featuring Jeff Morrisette, Westford's Director of Land Use Management.

Jeff has been Director of Land Use Management since 2018. He joined town staff in 2013, when he was hired as Town Planner.

At the forum Jeff will explain both the property's zoning status – what can be done in the zoning district without any variances or special

permits from the town – and the variances and/or special permits currently affecting the property. Jeff will also describe how the town's Demolition Delay Bylaw might impact any plans, should a future owner want to demolish the house and/or the barn.

Following his presentation, Jeff will answer questions. To help him prepare, please email him questions before noon on Monday, March 21 at jmorrisette@westfordma.gov. Questions will also be taken during the forum from attendees.

Town records show that the farmhouse was built in the early 19th century by the Drew family. Members of the Drew family lived there until it was sold in the late 1970s to Brad Emerson for his real estate office. Though the land is zoned for single-family residential use, zoning variances allowed the buildings to be used as a business. With one change of ownership, the property continued as a real estate office until recently.

Register for the Zoom forum here: tinyurl.com/70bostonroad



March at the J.V. Fletcher Library

Unless otherwise noted, the following programs are made possible by the Friends of the Library.



In-Person Story Times: Please note that select story times (listed below) have returned to “in-person”. Since space is limited to 20, there are no reservations or registrations. Go to the Children's Desk upstairs and ask for name tags for ONE adult caregiver and each child. Once you have your name tags, go down to the Meeting Room and wait at the door.

The doors to the Meeting Room close when the program is full and will remain closed. Latecomers are welcome to visit the children's room upstairs.

Mini Mother Goose, Mondays at 10:30 a.m. is a weekly story time for babies and their caregivers.

Book Bunch, Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. is an early literacy story time for preschoolers aged 2 to 4 years old.

Book Worms, Tuesdays at 1:15 p.m. is an early literacy story time for older preschoolers ages 4 and 5.

Tales and Tunes, Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. is a weekly, musical story time for children ages 1 1/2 to 3.

Virtual Mother Goose, Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. is a weekly, story time for babies and preschoolers with their parents. Please register for this program through our [Library Events Calendar](#).

Blanchard Middle School Book Club: March 15 and every third Tuesday 2:00 p.m.: We'll discuss a different book each month along with related crafts and activities. No registration required. Meetings take place in the Learning Commons. For more information, email Jess Dymont, jdymont@westfordma.gov

Virtual Financial Literacy Workshops for Young Adults: Wed. Mar. 16, Apr. 6 and Apr. 20, all at 7:00 p.m. Four-part series from the Babson Literacy Financial Project for young adults (17 to 30-year-olds). Hosted & sponsored by the Tewksbury Public Library & made available to Westford residents. Visit our [Adult Programs page](#) to learn more about this series.

Virtual A Look Back in Time: The James Webb Space Telescope: Fri., Mar. 18 at 11:00 a.m. JWST is hunting for the origins of everything from the Big Bang onward to today. Learn about this game-changing telescope with David S. Ball, a volunteer educator with NASA. Hosted by the Tewksbury Public Library and made available to Westford residents. Please register for this program through our [Library Events Calendar](#). Questions? Email sregan@westfordma.gov.

Teen and Tween Make and Take Crafternoon: Mon., March 21 at 3:30 p.m.: Join Jess for a fun-filled Crafternoon! We will meet in person in the library Meeting Room to make decorative orbs out of twine! Please e-mail jdymont@westfordma.gov if you have any food allergies or dietary restrictions and register through our [Library Events Calendar](#).

Virtual Boston HerStory: Remarkable Women with Boston Women's Heritage Trail: Tue., Mar. 22 at 2:00 p.m. In celebration of International Women's Month, Jennifer Gregg, President of the Boston Women's Heritage Trail, will present “Boston HerStory: Remarkable Women” via Zoom. Examine some of the remarkable women who lived and worked in Boston. Explore their lives and achievements and how they've influenced the history of Boston and beyond. Hosted and sponsored by Tewksbury Public Library and made available to Westford residents. Please register through our [Library Events Calendar](#). Questions? Email sregan@westfordma.gov.

March at the J.V. Fletcher Library (Continued)

Virtual Classic Restaurants of Boston: Thu., Mar. 24 at 7:00 p.m. Local author Zachary Lamothe will discuss his new book, *Classic Restaurants of Boston*. In addition to Boston proper, the surrounding areas have their own specialties, including fried clams, the world's best roast beef sandwich and bar pizza. From famous spots like Cheers to new classics like Anna's Taqueria and the Summer Shack, join Zachary as he explores the best food in Beantown. Hosted and sponsored by Tewksbury Public Library and made available to Westford residents. Please register through [our Library Events Calendar](#). Questions? Email Sarah Regan at sregan@westfordma.gov.

Wifi Hotspots: Now, You Can Borrow the Internet! The J.V. Public Library now has mobile hotspots available for checkout! The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC), using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), has created a public library hotspot lending program to provide the Internet to everyone free of charge. Patrons over the age of 18 may check out a hotspot for one week. Hotspots may be reserved just like a book through the [Library catalog](#) or by calling the Information Services Desk at 978-399-2304.

Check out our [Museum Passes page](#) or call the Library for reservations. Unless otherwise noted, our museum passes are generously funded by the Friends of the Library. [Have you joined the Friends yet?](#)

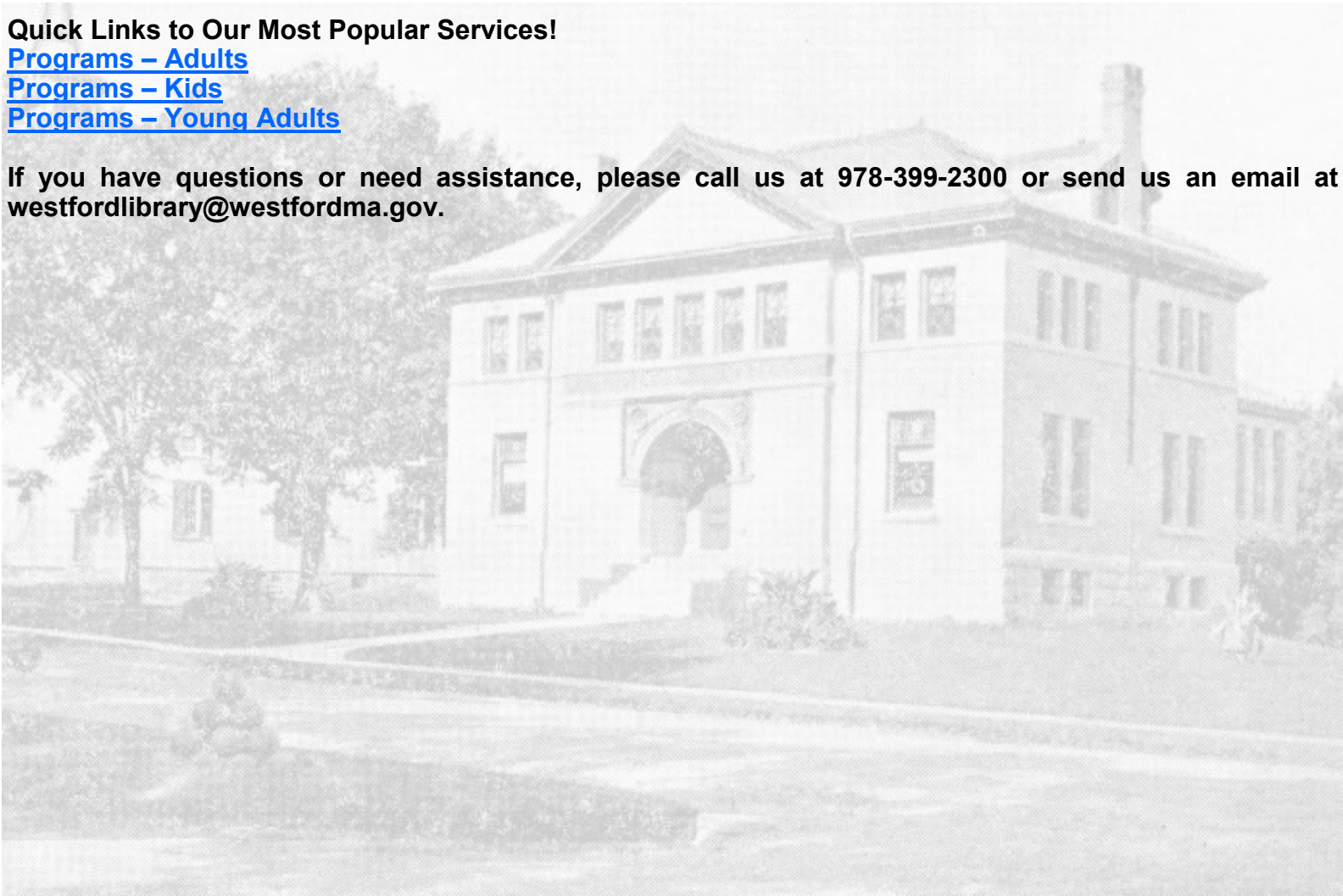
Quick Links to Our Most Popular Services!

[Programs – Adults](#)

[Programs – Kids](#)

[Programs – Young Adults](#)

If you have questions or need assistance, please call us at 978-399-2300 or send us an email at westfordlibrary@westfordma.gov.



Cameron Senior Center

Offering diverse spring activities for all to *Enjoy!*

Cameron Presents: Spotlight on Emotional Wellness-Skills for Everyone with Lisa Wessan, LICSW, RM, CLYL

STARTING APRIL 8TH FROM 1-3PM. SIX MONTHLY WORKSHOPS ON THE SECOND FRIDAY OF THE MONTH. Based on the premise that every thought becomes a chemical reaction in your body, this six-session workshop offers a multimodal approach to improve your ability to recover your emotional balance and feel healthier, more peaceful and relaxed. **About the instructor:** Lisa Wessan, LICSW, RM, CLYL, is a Psychotherapist, Life Coach, Dialectical Behavior Therapy Skills Trainer (DBT), author, speaker and consultant. Call 978-692-5523 to sign up by April 4th, Westford residents will receive priority for this workshop. **This workshop series will be brought to our center by a grant from the Greater Lowell Community Foundation.**

Boiled Dinner

Wednesday, March 16 12:00 p.m. Enjoy a traditional Saint Patrick's Day boiled dinner prepared by students of Nashoba Tech Culinary Arts Program. Don't forget to wear green! Erin go Bragh! Cost is \$10. Sign up by calling 978.692.5523. Special thanks to the Friends of the Cameron for their financial sponsorship of this event.



Holi Celebration

Wednesday, March 23 at 12pm

Come Celebrate Holi, the Hindu Spring Festival. Holi is also known as the Festival of Colors. Enjoy a delicious lunch, and after lunch we will make a special craft reflective of this celebration. Wear a bright color or two, or three. There are no limits on your personal expression! Cost \$6. RSVP by calling 78.692.5523. **Special thanks to the Friends of the Cameron for their financial sponsorship of this event.**

Cameron Center Transportation Department

Serving Westford's Senior Residents aged 55 and up and disabled of all ages. We Provide Local Van Trips for Medical Appointments, Shopping, and Social events.

Rides to Emerson Hospital, Nashoba Valley Medical Center, Lowell General Hospital, and other local medical offices, shops, Town Meetings, activities, and events within our operating area of:

Westford, Chelmsford, Littleton, Groton, Carlisle, Ayer, Acton, Concord, and Lowell.

Weekly trips to Market Basket on Tuesdays. Weekly Bingo Rides on Monday and Friday.

Suggested Donation for round trip fares:

- Westford: \$3
- Chelmsford, Acton, Groton, Littleton, and Carlisle: \$6
- Ayer, Concord, and Lowell: \$8

Need transportation within our operating area? Give us a call at (978) 399-2322

Monday - Friday First ride at 8:00 AM – Last ride at 3:30 PM.

Medical rides take precedence. 48 business hours notice required.

(Continued on next Page)

Cameron Senior Center (continued)

Hawaiian DINNER with DONNA

Tuesday, March 29, 3:30pm to 6:30pm

Let's think warm thoughts with a Hawaiian party! Wear your bright luau attire and possibly win a prize! Entertainer Roger Tincknell will provide tropical music and dances performed on guitar, ukulele and percussion instruments. Be sure to do some stretching for limbo and hoola hoop contests! Dinner will be chicken with pineapple, white rice, green vegetable, dessert and drink. Cost- \$3 The Westford Food Pantry and the Friends of Cameron are kindly subsidizing some of the cost of this congregate meal event.



CHINESE CULTURAL LUNCHEON

Wednesday, April 20, at 1pm

We will be celebrating with Chinese food, decorations, and crafts to learn about different cultures and traditions within our community. Don't forget to wear lucky colors (green, yellow, red and blue) to this event! Cost \$5. RSVP at 978.692.5523 Special thanks to the Friends of the Cameron for their financial sponsorship of this event.

MEET & GREET

Tuesday, April 26 at 5:30pm

Do you have the COVID Blues? Feel lonely sometimes? Would you enjoy some companionship/ meet need friends? Join hosts Katie and Annette for fun icebreaking activities. Enjoy the company of people in our community and make some new connections, friendships, and who knows, maybe a new love interest! Light appetizers and finger foods will be served. Please sign up at the front desk at 978.692.5523.



Special thanks to the Friends of the Cameron for their financial sponsorship of this event.

To learn more about the Cameron Senior Center programs and services please visit:

**www.westfordma.gov/coa, [www.facebook.com/Cameron Senior Center/](https://www.facebook.com/Cameron-Senior-Center/)
www.youtube.com/channel/UCaNgAZb3tw8EYYQ5bEe7XXg**

or simply call 978-692-5523.

To view the complete Council On Aging Newsletter please visit our website:

www.westfordma.gov/coa and click on [Newsletters](#).



Westford Senior Center

Recycling Commission

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

For details on all dates: www.westfordma.gov/recycling

APRIL 23, 2022. Brush Chipping. 10:30 a.m – 4:30 p.m. \$10/load.

APRIL 30, 2022. Electronics & More. 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Many items are free.



SPECIAL EARTH MONTH AND EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

The Westford Recycling Commission is one of the town co-sponsors in the month-long family-friendly event being organized by Westford Climate Action. During April, there will be several activities such as litter clean ups, nature trail walks, library talks, workshops on recycling and mushroom growing and a poster making contest.

The celebration will culminate in an EARTH DAY event April 22 from 3 - 5:30 p.m. on the town common. Rain date April 23. Speakers will be on hand to inspire and bring us up to date on MA and Westford climate roadmaps. Music will be provided by Oh Contraire and Momentum Rocks.

On April 22, several education tables will be set up on the town common, with experts to answer questions on alternative energy, sustainability, recycling, solar, heat pumps for heating and cooling, and MASS SAVE. A poster drawing station/contest will be available for kids. Also, a petting zoo will be there. Native Americans' objects will be on display from the Westford Museum.

We invite you to visit the Westford Recycling Commission table for information and materials. Plus, we will have a demonstration of the Earth Machine for backyard composting.

Click here for the Earth Month information and calendar :

westfordclimateaction.org/earth-month/

MA resource for "What is Recyclable?" www.RecycleSmartMA.org.

Reduce! Reuse! Repurpose! Recycle!

Health Department

My Mental Health: Do I Need Help?

First, determine how much your symptoms interfere with your daily life.



Do I have mild symptoms that have lasted for less than 2 weeks?

- Feeling a little down
- Feeling down, but still able to do job, schoolwork, or housework
- Some trouble sleeping
- Feeling down, but still able to take care of yourself or take care of others



If so, here are some self-care activities that can help:

- Exercising (e.g., aerobics, yoga)
- Engaging in social contact (virtual or in person)
- Getting adequate sleep on a regular schedule
- Eating healthy
- Talking to a trusted friend or family member
- Practicing meditation, relaxation, and mindfulness

If the symptoms above do not improve or seem to be worsening despite self-care efforts, talk to your health care provider.



Do I have severe symptoms that have lasted 2 weeks or more?

- Difficulty sleeping
- Appetite changes that result in unwanted weight changes
- Struggling to get out of bed in the morning because of mood
- Difficulty concentrating
- Loss of interest in things you usually find enjoyable
- Unable to perform usual daily functions and responsibilities
- Thoughts of death or self-harm



Seek professional help:

- Psychotherapy (talk therapy)—virtual or in person; individual, group, or family
- Medications
- Brain stimulation therapies

For help finding treatment, visit www.nimh.nih.gov/findhelp.

If you are in crisis, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255), or text the Crisis Text Line (text HELLO to 741741).

Health Department (Continued)

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

Tel:1-800-273-8255

<https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>

Text HOME to 741741 to connect with a Crisis Counselor

<https://www.crisistextline.org/>

Trevor Lifeline for LGBTQ Youth

Tel://1-866-488-7386

Text 'START' to 678-678

<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/>

National Helpline

Tel:1-800-662-4357

<https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/national-helpline>

Disaster Distress Helpline

Call or Text 1-800-985-5990

<https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/disaster-distress-helpline>

National Domestic Violence Hotline

Tel:1-800-799-7233

Text 'START' to 88788

<https://www.thehotline.org/>

National Sexual Assault Hotline

Tel: 1-800-656-HOPE (4673)

<https://www.rainn.org/>

**For further assistance or information Contact
Regional Community Health and Wellness Coordinator,
Brittany Nash**

Health Department



PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK APRIL 4-10

**Westford Health Department is sponsoring a family event,
adults & children welcome**

Back by popular demand, Zumba is back!

**Let's enjoy some fun music and dancing:
you won't even know you are exercising!**

Date: Saturday, April 9, 2022

Time: 11:00 am-12:00 pm

Place: Abbot Elementary School, parking lot, 25 Depot St

NO RAIN DATE



Health Department

Westford Public Health Week

presents

The Westford Hopscotch Challenge!!!

Hopscotch is fun when you involve your family, friends, and neighbors both young and old.

!!TROPHY PRIZES!!

will go to...

1. Most Creative Individual Hopscotch Design
2. Best Neighborhood Design

- When does the challenge start and how long:

Monday April 4th to April 10th

- What do I need to do to win: Upload your hopscotch video to the Westford Health Department Facebook Page.

- Prizes will be announced the following week. Have fun



Health Department

Westford Celebrates National Public Health Week



Monday April 4th

- The Hopscotch Challenge begins....
- Monday Mile Challenge

Tuesday April 5th

- Alcohol and Mental Health Awareness Month
 - Suicide Prevention Education
- Septic System Information and Maintenance

Wednesday April 6th

- Well Testing and PFAS Information
 - “Get Vaccinated” Education

Thursday April 7th

- Tick and Mosquito Information
- Spring/Summer Food Safety Tips

Friday April 8th

- Medication and Sharps/Needles Disposal
 - Domestic Violence Information

Saturday April 9th

- Family Zumba Event at the Abbot School Parking Lot
25 Depot St.
11:00am to 12 noon

Please see our [Facebook](#) and webpage at:
<https://westfordma.gov/Health> for more information.

Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee

Join us on the Common on Earth Day, April 22!

The Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee is joining Westford Climate Action and several other co-sponsors for an Earth Day celebration on Westford Common on Friday, April 22 from 3:00 to 5:30. Learn about the many steps you can take to save energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. There will experts on alternative energy, sustainability, recycling, solar energy, and Mass Save rebates to answer your questions. The

Westford Museum will be displaying Native American artifacts from its collection. Children who make and submit a poster about Earth Day will be eligible for a free drawing for prizes and Animal Craze Traveling Farm will be on the common. An array of speakers including state legislators will inspire and bring us up to date on the State's and Town's climate goals. Activities will also be taking place through the entire month of April.

[Find out more here.](#)



Consider a Heat Pump!

Heat pumps will keep your home or business warm on the coldest day and cool and dry on the warmest summer afternoon.

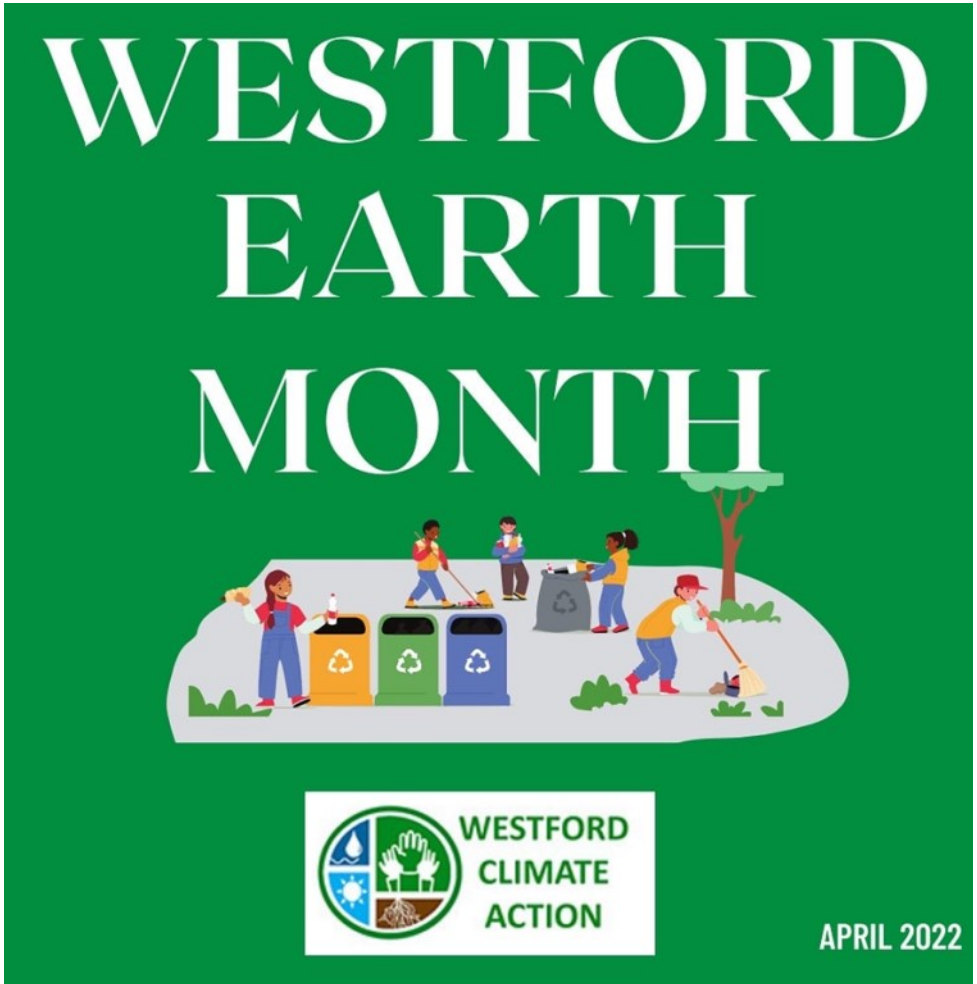
Join the growing number of Westford residents who are cutting their carbon emissions and improving indoor comfort by getting their heating and cooling from heat pumps. Options exist for a wide range of budgets, comfort needs and carbon reduction goals.

To find out more about incentives and local heat pump coaching services check out the [CEASC Heat Pump webpage!](#)

Westford Climate Action

April in Westford will be filled with earth-friendly, earth-celebratory and family-friendly events organized by Westford Climate Action. Many details of “**Earth Month**” have been shared elsewhere in this newsletter by one of our partners, Westford Recycling Commission. The Saturday walks and hikes in April include the following (no registration is needed):
April 2 O'Brien Farm/Vose Rd 9-10:30 AM, April 9 Stone Arch Bridge 9-10:30 AM, April 16, Blake's Hill/Burns Hill 9-10:30 AM, April 23 Frances Hill Wildlife Sanctuary/Lowell Rd (no dogs allowed) 9-10:30 AM.

April 18-22 is Westford school-vacation week and we have planned many children's events with the J.V. Fletcher Library, including WBZ-TV Meteorologist Sarah Wroblewski on Tuesday, April 19 at 11 AM; Elizabeth Alemeida from Fat Moon Mushrooms, Tuesday, April 19 at 2 PM; Christine Berthold from Fresh Start Food Gardens, Wednesday, April 20 at 10, 11 and 12 o'clock; and an adult virtual (zoom) presentation on Climate Resiliency on April 14 at 7 PM.



The BIG CELEBRATION is on INTERNATIONAL EARTH DAY, Friday, April 22 on the Westford Common from 3-5:30 pm. Ahead of April 22, children who make at home and submit a poster about Earth Day will be eligible for a free drawing for prizes. They can also make a poster on the Common on Earth Day, April 22.

Please go to our website to see our partners and for more detailed information and more events as they are scheduled: <https://westfordclimateaction.org/earth-month/>

Westford Climate Action is a grassroots organization of town residents who are concerned about the climate crisis. Our mission is to drive climate action. We promote sustainability and advocate on a local level for actions that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and safeguard the health of our community for future generations.

Water Department



Westford 2022 Rain Barrel Program

When You Buy a Rain Barrel, you will:

- Have an alternate source of water during droughts.
- Have a healthy, chlorine and chemical-free water source for plants and gardens.
- Improve residential storm management.
- Slow pollution from runoff.
- Lower municipal water demands & save energy at treatment plants.

About The Great American Rain Barrel:

- 100% re-purposed, food grade, UV protected and BPA free barrels. **Produced in Massachusetts.**
- Most durable rain barrels on the market: 3/16" wall thickness.
- Will last for years when properly drained & stored for winter. Pay for themselves in one year.
- Screen filtered to keep mosquitoes out.
- Several rain barrels can be linked together — easy 5-minute setup
- **Available Colors:** Forest Green, Earth Brown, and Nantucket Grey. Also available unpainted.

How to Purchase Your Rain Barrel:

Rain Barrels are available for purchase by residents at the discounted price of \$79.00.

How to Order: <https://www.greatamericanrainbarrel.com/community/westford>

Pick-Up: Wednesday, May 11th 4:00-6:00pm Water Dept 60 Forge Village 01886

Deadline: May 1st Midnight

Town Clerk's Corner

Pursuant to MGL ch. 54 § 6, the Town of Westford has changed its voting precincts as a result of the population changes from the 2020 Federal Census. These changes include the addition of a 7th precinct. Polling locations have been consolidated! Precincts, 1,3,4 and 7 will be voting at Westford Academy. Precincts 2,5 and 6 will be voting at the Stony Brook School. Notification of your voting location will be sent out in the form of a postcard. Look for it in your mailbox!

Dates to remember

Town Election: May 3, 2022 (polls open 7:00 am-8:00 pm)

Town Meeting: June 11, 2022, 9 am at WA Trustees Field, WA

State Primary: September 6, 2022 (polls open 7 am-8 pm)

State Election: November 8, 2022 (polls open 7 am-8 pm)

Deadline to license your dog(s)

Dogs must be licensed by March 31, 2022 to avoid the \$25.00 late fee. Spayed or neutered dogs are \$15.00. Non altered dogs are \$20.00.

A reminder - We have a drop box for ballots, dog license requests, census forms and any other items for the Town Clerk's Office. It is located at the back door to Town Hall on the sidewalk leading to the Police Station. Access is available 24 hours a day. The box is securely locked and tamperproof.

Not registered as a voter in Westford yet? It's easier than ever ... just go online!

<http://www.sec.state.ma.us/>



When you register to vote, you may

- Register in a POLITICAL PARTY by selecting one of the listed parties (currently Democratic or Republican) OR
- Register in a political designation, OR
- Register with no party affiliation by selecting "NO PARTY (unenrolled)," which is commonly referred to as "independent" meaning that you do not have a party designation

If you do not enroll in a party (i.e., choose unenrolled or a political designation), you may still vote in state and presidential primaries by choosing a party ballot and will remain unenrolled. If you enroll in one of the parties listed above, you may vote only in that party's primary. In a general election, all voters receive the same ballot regardless of party enrollment.

Become an Election Worker!

The Town Clerk's Office is looking for enthusiastic individuals who can work at the upcoming elections. If you are interested in this civic opportunity, please complete an [Election Officer Profile](#) and submit it to the Town Clerk's Office.

Westford Tree and Invasive Species Inventory and Management Plan First Public Forum Thursday April 14th 7:00 - 9:00 PM

The Town of Westford is developing a tree and invasive species plan to ensure environmental health and community resilience.

Your input can help shape the town's goals and actions for its trees.

Agenda

- Learn about the project, including locations for the inventory of trees and invasive species.
- Share your ideas about goals and priorities for the Plan with other community members.

Join the meeting by using this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85080617643?pwd=c1lhZlpsamcxQWftMk93TXA2aEh4Zz09>

Contact:
Jeffrey Morrisette
Director of Land Use Management
Email: jmorrisette@westfordma.gov
Phone: (978) 692-5524



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